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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/593,815	MCROBERT, STEPHEN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert W. Wilson	2661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/24/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-9, 16, 11-15, & 17 (Re# 1-15).
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 11/16/03.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1.0 The examiner reconsidered this case and conducted an updated search. The examiner withdraws the finality of the previous action.

Allowable Subject Matter

2.0 The present invention is directed to a data communication system comprising multiple switching devices which are interconnected via an expansion bus. Each of the switching devices has an address processing block for comparing destination address information of a received data packet with current address information. Upon receiving a packet from a device which is not a switching device or a device which is attached to the switch the destination address in the received packet is compared to destination addresses in the address processing block of the switch. If there is a destination address matches then a signal match is sent to another switching device. The closest prior art is Hoang (U.S. Patent No.; 6,459,700 B1) and Deng (U.S. Patent No.; 6,243,394). Hoang discloses switches interconnected via bus in a stack. Each of the switches has a learning bridge. When a packet is received from a host which is not a switch then the packet is forwarded then the packet is forwarded without a match signal being sent to another switch. Deng discloses a SPCs or switches which are connected via a backplane or expansion bus. When a packet is received from a host and the destination address is not known then the packet is forwarded over the backplane to another SPC or switch. When the destination address is found then the destination address or match signal is forwarded back to the original SPC or switch. This reference teaches that the packet is forwarded from another switch in order to determine if there is a signal match which is not from a host terminal.

The closest prior art Hoang (U.S. Patent No.; 6,459,700 B1) and Deng (U.S. Patent No.; 6,243,394) do not disclose, anticipate, or render obvious the following claim limitation:

“producing a match signal supplied to another switching device when the destination address information matches the current information, wherein said data packet is not received from said another switching device” as claimed in claim 2.

“supplying a match signal to a second switching device when the destination address information matches the first current address information, wherein said data packet is not received from the second switching device” as claimed in claim 11.

In addition:

Claims 3-9 & 16 are allowed because they depend upon claim 2.

Claims 12-15 & 17 are allowed because they depend upon claim 11.


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Conclusion

3.0 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert W. Wilson whose telephone number is 571/272-3075. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau T. Nguyen can be reached on 571/272-3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Robert W Wilson
Examiner
Art Unit 2661

RWW
5/30/05


PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER